IN SUMMARY

Out of Money for Measles
Federal officials say they have run out of money to combat the current epidemic of measles, which has killed dozens of unvaccinated preschool-age children this year. **Page 5.**

A Klan Campaign
The Ku Klux Klan is urging teachers in Duval County, Fla., to resist a federal-court desegregation order designed to help achieve racially balanced school faculties in the district. **Page 7.**

Lax on Asbestos Rules?
A union-sponsored survey of school custodians and maintenance workers in Ohio suggests that many schools there are not complying with the requirements of the federal asbestos law. **Page 7.**

Mohawk Schools Disrupted
An armed standoff between a militant sect of Mohawk Indians and the New York state police over gambling on the St. Regis reservation has caused disruptions in two schools serving the tribe. **Page 8.**

Eyeing the Pension Fund
Despite strong opposition from teachers' unions, New York State officials last week were looking to the state teachers' pension fund to help increase aid to the schools. **Page 15.**

Impact-Aid Increases
The Senate last week approved legislation that would allow larger impact-aid payments to school districts that lose students and revenue due to impending military-base closings. **Page 18.**

Emphasis on Alcohol Abuse
Members of a national commission clashed with a Bush Administration official last week over the emphasis to be given to youth alcohol abuse in an upcoming report. **Page 18.**

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ACROSS THE NATION

NATIONAL

U.S. Women Averaging 2 Babies For First Time in 18 Years

For the first time in 18 years, U.S. women of childbearing age are having an average of two babies each, new government statistics show.

According to data compiled by the National Center for Health Statistics, the estimated fertility rate for women between the ages of 15 and 44 in 1989 was 2.0 children per woman.

The 1989 figure is an increase from the lowest recorded rate of 1.74 per woman in 1976. It is also the first time since 1972 that women have averaged 2 children each.

The center also estimates that 4,021,000 children were born last year, the most since 1964.

Stephanie Ventura, a demographer at the center, said the total number of births is likely to decline in the next few years, despite the higher fertility rate. A decline can be expected, she said because members of the "baby boom" generation are gradually aging beyond childbearing age.

STATES

New York Business, Labor Groups Endorse Statewide Reform Package

A coalition of business and labor groups in New York State has endorsed a package of school reforms.

Among other proposals, the New York State A.F.L.-C.I.O. and the Business Council of New York State endorsed school-based management, "report cards" for schools, intradistrict parental choice, and outcome-based accreditation.

The groups announced their endorsements at a conference with educators on May 1.

The coalition asked the State Board of Regents to adopt its proposals by next January so that new regulations could be in place for the 1992-93 school year.

The business council represents about 3,600 companies and more than 200 chambers of commerce; the A.F.L.-C.I.O. represents some 2.3 million workers in the state.

■ **In cases of divorce, the parent with custody of the children has the right to determine how and where they will be educated,** the Nebraska Supreme Court has ruled.

The only exception, the court said, would be if "there is an affirmative showing that the custodial parent's decision has injured or harmed, or will jeopardize the child's safety."

The case centered on a child-custody dispute involving the divorce of Lawrence E. Von Tersch and Geraldine A. Von Tersch.

A district court had supported Mr. Von Tersch's assertion that the couple's twin boys would be better served academically, socially, and athletically if they were enrolled in a public school instead of the school run by the Sword of the Spirit Church.

In reversing that decision, the Supreme Court cited its earlier decision that the custodial parent has the right to control a child's religious training unless there is a demonstrated threat to the child's health and well-being.

In addition, the court said, there was no evidence that continued attendance at the Sword of the Spirit Church school would have any detrimental effect on the 9-year-old twins.

DISTRICTS

Federal Judge Orders Release Of Dade Desegregation Records

A federal judge has ordered Dade County, Fla., school officials to provide him with extensive records on the district's desegregation efforts.

U.S. District Judge C. Clyde Atkins told school officials last month to give him the records for schools with enrollments that are more than 90 percent white or black. The records must include information on the racial makeup of each school's faculty and the racial makeup of nearby schools, the judge said.

The order came in response to a letter from a citizens' committee that monitors the district's desegregation efforts.

In their letter, members of the Bi-Racial/Tri-Ethnic Committee contend that the district's attendance-boundary committee had recommended changes that would impede progress toward desegregation. The attendance-boundary committee, also made up of citizens, suggests adjustments in school boundaries to relieve overcrowding.

The so-called Bi-Tri committee refused to endorse the attendance-boundary committee's recommendations for the 1990-91 school year.

Lawyers for the district argued that Dade County schools have become more integrated since 1970, when the system was declared "unitary," or legally desegregated. In 1970, they said, 30 percent of the system's schools were segregated, while in 1990 only 5 percent are.

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Earning Extra Credits

The sign outside the high school in Snoqualamie Valley (Wash.) School District No. 410 reads "Mount Si High School." But to millions of viewers of television's audacious and eerie new series, it reads "Twin Peaks High School."

David Lynch, the show's director, chose Mount Si to film the school scenes in the two-hour pilot show that introduced the mystery-cum-soap opera to viewers this spring.

Mr. Lynch and his staff walked through the building about 14 months ago, says Barbara Harkey, the school's vice principal, and were immediately taken with the building.

"We have a very, very old building, and they kept saying over and over, 'This is perfect,' " she recalls. "And it *was* perfect for them."

To set the scene, the crew even went to the trouble of making an exact duplicate of the school's sign, changing only the name.

A casting call went out, and not surprisingly, there was little trouble in attracting students to play extras in several school scenes.

"When word got around that a movie was going to be filmed here," Ms. Harkey recalls, "the students showed up in droves."

The crew interviewed students and chose a number of them to appear as extras during the filming. Students were told that they would have to give up some weekends for the filming and that they definitely would not miss any school.

"Our major concern was that the students not have their education interrupted," Ms. Harkey says.

But when the crew arrived to shoot the scene on March 1, 1989, they found 17 inches of new snow on the ground. The storm closed the school and canceled a proposed scene on the football field. But filming went ahead on a crucial scene in which students learn that their classmate, Laura Palmer—a prom queen with some decidedly unsavory secrets—has been found murdered.

Mount Si students comfort Donna Hayward (the actress Lara Flynn Boyle) in a scene from the pilot episode of "Twin Peaks."

The one scene—a long, painful look at the shock and horror of Laura's classmates (some of whom have their own secrets) took an entire day to film, Ms. Harkey says, as the director ordered numerous retakes. The crew returned that weekend to shoot hallway scenes, and again this spring to shoot some film to promote the series.

The school's 800-plus students have been avidly following the show, she says. "The burning question last fall was not when the new principal was going to come, but when 'Twin Peaks' was going to show."

And what of Laura Palmer, whose reputation deteriorates with each week's episode?

"Oh no, not to my knowledge. There definitely is no Laura Palmer here," Ms. Harkey says. —G.B.

tee from relieving overcrowding to correcting racial imbalances.

■ **A 16-year-old deaf and mentally retarded girl has brought suit against officials at a public Philadelphia-area vocational school for failing to protect her from being repeatedly raped by seven of her classmates.**

The student, identified only as "D.R." in the lawsuit, said the attacks at Middle Bucks Area Vocational School involved seven male students between the ages of 15 and 17. The attacks allegedly occurred in 1989 in secluded areas of the school's graphics classroom.

The student's lawsuit, filed last month in federal district court in Philadelphia, portrays the classroom as wildly out of control and asserts that students sometimes locked the instructor out of the room. It contends that school officials knew about the poor discipline in the classroom, but that they failed to take steps to protect D.R. and other female classmates from being molested.

The suit also blames school officials for placing a student teacher in charge of the class without giving her adequate support and training.

Donald Maloney, the school's current director, said he could not comment on the lawsuit because he was not employed by the school when the incidents took place.

■ **The Boise, Idaho, school district can ask two families to submit information about their home-school programs,** a state judge has ruled.

In his ruling, Fourth District Judge D. Duff McKee said state law gives districts the right to determine if a home-schooling program is "comparable" to a public-school education.

The Boise district had asked the parents to submit curriculum outlines and descriptions of how academic progress is monitored. The parents had claimed that this request was unconstitutional because it violated their right to privacy.

■ **Parents of students attending Baskin (La.) High School have decided against legal action to keep a student with hepatitis B out of the school,** a lawyer for the parents said.

Almost half of the K-12 school's 400 students were kept home by their parents for several days when the infected child began attending the school in March.

David Doughty, a lawyer for the parents, said plans for a lawsuit were dropped after the school board decided last month that the boy posed no health threat to other students.

Before the board's decision, the 5-year-old boy had been removed from the school and tutored at home for two weeks. The board readmitted the boy after health experts explained that the disease is transmitted through direct contact with blood, sexual intercourse, and shared needles. They said the disease is rarely spread through casual contact.

■ **Twenty-one parents have been arrested, some as many as five times, during protests at Louisville (Miss.) High School calling for the dismissal of the district school superintendent,** local police said.

The parents, who were charged late last month with disturbing the peace, staged the demonstrations to seek the dismissal of Louisville's superintendent, Fred Perkins. Mr. Perkins, they charged, has shown insensitivity to blacks by failing to hire enough black teachers and by permitting the election of separate black and white high-school homecoming courts.

Mr. Perkins, who is white, asserted last week that the majority of the city's black community supports the way he has run the 4,100-student district, which is 59 percent black.

■ **A group of parents in Sand Lake, Mich., has filed suit against the school district and the local mental-health agency after their children were given sexually explicit information during a lesson on self-esteem.**

About 200 students in grades 7-11 in the Sand Lake Alternative Education School were given printed information about masturbation, sexual fantasies, and group sex as part of a talk on self-esteem presented by an employee of the local mental-health agency, said David R. Melton, a lawyer for the parents.

Mr. Melton said that, although the employee has since resigned and both the school system and the mental-health agency agree that the sexual material should not have been included, seven families believe both institutions were negligent.

Mr. Melton, the president of the Michigan chapter of the Rutherford Institute, a politically conservative parents'-rights group, said he filed a suit on their behalf in Kent County Circuit Court.

He said the suit alleges that parents' rights were violated when the school failed to inform them about the nature of the presentation and to screen the materials beforehand.

■ **Unhappy with the performance of his schools superintendent, Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke of Baltimore has hired a deputy superintendent to take over the day-to-day operations of the district.**

James Edward Andrews Jr., a professor at the University of Maryland, has accepted the new position of deputy superintendent. He will serve under Richard Hunter, the superintendent whom Mr. Schmoke has criticized for his handling of several security matters.

Mr. Andrews was superintendent of schools in Montgomery County from 1979 to 1983. Last year he worked as a consultant to Superintendent Hunter.

UPDATE

■ **School districts in North Carolina may use Whittle Communications' "Channel One" TV news show, but only for one three-year contract and only if they do not count the 12-minute program as part of the regular school day,** the state board of education has decided.

The board voted 10 to 1 on May 3 to impose a ban on commercially sponsored programs such as "Channel One," which includes 10 minutes of news and 2 minutes of commercials. But districts that have already signed contracts may show the program, and other districts may sign contracts during the 60 days before the board's regulation takes effect.

State officials have been at odds with many district superintendents over who should decide whether schools can show "Channel One." *(See Education Week, Feb. 28, 1990.)*

The board stipulated in its vote that districts may not include the 12 minutes in the regular 5½-hour school day. Also, the contracts will become invalid if the state supreme court rules that they violate public policy, the board said.

■ **The McMartin Preschool, the target of a flood of child-abuse charges filed against its principal and a teacher, has been sold and faces demolition.**

Arnold Goldstein, a local developer, purchased the property in Manhattan Beach, Calif., in February for $320,000 from Danny Davis, the lawyer who is representing Raymond Buckey on eight counts of child abuse stemming from his work at the center. *(See Education Week, Feb. 7, 1990.)*

The *Los Angeles Times* has reported that Mr. Davis acquired the property in lieu of a legal fee for representing Mr. Buckey, who was acquitted on all but 13 of 53 counts against him. His mother, Peggy McMartin Buckey, was acquitted on all 12 counts against her. Mr. Buckey is now being retried on eight counts.

Mr. Goldstein has filed plans with the city to build a three-story office building on the site. "Who needs that monument anymore?" he told the *Times*.

■ **A federal court jury has ordered the Kentucky Education Association to pay more than $1 million in damages to a former school principal who said the union had him fired over a racial slur.**

Robert G. Eaton, an elementary-school principal, had been fired in 1987 after he called a black school employee a "nigger." The Newport school board dismissed him even though he apologized to the employee. A state appeals court later ruled that the district had arbitrarily dismissed Mr. Eaton and ordered it to rehire him. *(See Education Week, Sept. 6, 1989.)*

In the federal case, Mr. Eaton charged that the union and its local field representative conspired with the school board to have him fired. In finding for Mr. Eaton, the jury awarded him damages for malicious action, anguish, and embarrassment, as well as back pay with interest.

The union is expected to ask U.S. District Judge William O. Bertelsman to set aside the verdict.

■ **The executive director of the New Jersey School Boards Association has resigned in the wake of charges that he misused and mismanaged funds.**

Octavius T. Reid Jr. resigned shortly before the association's directors were scheduled to vote on whether to dismiss him, as a state investigative panel had recommended. *(See Education Week, May 9, 1990.)*

The panel said that Mr. Reid had mismanaged insurance funds, leading to a $1-million loss, and that he had used funds to finance an extravagant life style.

Mr. Reid has denied any wrongdoing.

PEOPLE

■ **Norward Roussell,** the superintendent of schools in Selma, Ala., whose dismissal by the school board last winter sparked months of protest, has resigned.

Last December, the white-dominated board voted not to renew Mr. Roussell's contract when it expires next month. He was the school system's first black superintendent.

Mr. Roussell last week accepted a $150,000 cash settlement in exchange for dropping his $10-million federal lawsuit against the board.

Mr. Roussell said he was planning to write a book and several newspaper articles about the "disturbing things that are happening in the education of black children."

The board is considering an interim superintendent and has begun a search for a permanent replacement.

■ **Martha C. Fricke** is the new president of the National School Boards Association, succeeding James R. Oglesby.

Ms. Fricke, a school-board member in Ashland, Neb., since 1969, took office during the N.S.B.A.'s annual meeting in New Orleans last month.

DIMENSIONS

Moonlighting Teachers

Twenty-three percent of public-school teachers, and slightly more than 30 percent of private-school teachers, held down second jobs outside their schools in 1987-88, according to a survey by the National Center for Education Statistics.

Of the public-school teachers, 5.7 percent moonlighted only during the school year, 7.6 percent only during summer recess, and 9.7 percent all year, the survey found. For private-school teachers the figures were 7.0 percent, 11.5 percent, and 11.6 percent, respectively.

The data, which come from the Schools and Staffing Survey conducted by the N.C.E.S., reveal that men were much more likely than women to moonlight (in public schools, 41 percent of men versus 15 percent of women; in private schools, 48 percent versus 25 percent). White teachers were also more likely to moonlight than were teachers from minority groups, the survey showed.

Those working second jobs tended to be younger than those who did not, the survey found. Some 37 percent of public-school teachers under age 30 moonlighted, and 51 percent of private-school teachers in that age group did so. Not surprisingly, teachers with lower family incomes tended to moonlight more than their more affluent peers.

Sharon A. Bobbitt of the N.C.E.S. discussed the findings at the American Educational Research Association's recent meeting in Boston. More information is available from Ms. Bobbitt, Elementary and Secondary Education Statistics Division, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20208-5651.

Teachers Who Do and Do Not Moonlight, 1987-88

	Public School		Private School	
	Do	Do Not	Do	Do Not
Total	22.9	77.1	30.2	69.8
Sex				
Male	40.6	59.4	48.3	51.7
Female	15.5	84.5	25.0	74.9
Race				
White	23.6	76.4	30.9	69.1
Minority	19.2	80.8	23.4	76.6
Level				
Elementary	16.6	83.4	26.2	73.8
Secondary	29.4	70.6	35.0	45.0

Source: Schools and Staffing Survey, National Center for Education Statistics 1987-88

350,000 Abductions by Family Members Documented

By Debra Viadero

WASHINGTON—The first national study of missing children has revealed that a surprisingly high number of children are abducted each year by members of their own families.

According to the study, released by the Justice Department this month, about 350,000 abductions of children by family members occur each year. Most often, they arise out of conflicts engendered by bitter divorces and custody fights.

The number of such abductions is more than three times higher than previous estimates.

By contrast, the number of children abducted by strangers was found to be significantly lower: between 200 and 300 a year.

Researchers said those figures, representing some of the most startling findings of the comprehensive, three-year study, shatter popular misconceptions about the nature and scope of the nation's missing-children problem.

"People would say there are 50,000 missing children in this country, and the public would hear that as 50,000 Adam Walshes or Melissa Brannens," said the study's co-author, Andrea Sedlak, referring to two nationally publicized cases.

Five-year-old Melissa Brannen disappeared from a party at her Washington-area apartment complex last year—taken, apparently, by a stranger—and has not been found. Adam Walsh, a Florida 6-year-old who was found murdered after being abducted from a store by a drifter, was the inspiration for a television drama and the public drive that culminated in the creation of national center on missing children.

The perception that all missing children fit this pattern "has done a lot of damage because there are different ways of dealing with these very different problems," said Ms. Sedlak, a social pyschologist and senior study director at Westat Inc. here.

She wrote the report with David Finkelhor, research scientist and co-director of the Family Research Laboratory at the University of New Hampshire, and Gerald T. Hotaling, an assistant professor of criminal justice at the University of Massachusetts.

Fears that a growing number of children were being abducted by strangers had led the Congress to mandate the study as part of the 1984 Missing Children Act.

The bulk of the $1.6-million study consisted of telephone surveys of 10,544 care-givers, conducted from January 1988 to January 1989. The researchers also surveyed juvenile facilities, studied police records, and re-analyzed 12 years of Federal Bureau of Investigation homicide data.

> *"People would say there are 50,000 missing children in this country, and the public would hear that as 50,000 Adam Walshes or Melissa Brannens."*
>
> —Andrea Sedlak

Taken by Parent

In 81 percent of the family abductions, they found, the children had been taken by a natural parent. Most family-abducted children were back home in two days to a week, with 10 percent being held for more than a month. Sexual assault, one of the most feared aspects of any abduction, occurred in only 1 percent of the family-abduction cases.

About 46 percent of the family abductions fell into the most serious category, in which the child's whereabouts were concealed, he or she was taken out of state, or there was evidence the abductor intended to keep the child indefinitely.

The researchers concluded that the missing-children problem is really five distinct problems. Besides family abductions, it includes abductions by strangers, children who run away from home, "thrown-away" children, and those who are lost, injured, or otherwise missing.

In addition to the estimated 200 to 300 children kidnapped each year by strangers, the report estimates that, in 1988, 3,200 to 4,600 children were lured away for brief periods of time by strangers or other nonfamily members. Most often, these episodes lasted less than a day and involved teenagers or younger girls who were sexually assaulted.

Ms. Sedlak noted as equally disturbing the fact that an estimated 114,600 more abductions were attempted by nonfamily members.

An estimated 450,700 children ran away from home over the survey period, constituting the largest category of missing children. Fewer than a third of those children did not have "a secure and familiar place to stay" during some portion of those episodes, according to the report.

Another 127,100 children were estimated to have been "thrown away," meaning their parents had either abandoned them, thrown them out of the house following an argument, or made no attempt to recover them after they had run away.

Finally, 438,200 children were described as "lost, injured, or otherwise missing." In many of these instances, the researchers said, the children had either lost track of the time or misunderstood when they were expected to come back home.

Copies of the report, "Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children in America," may be obtained from the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse, Box 6000, Rockville, Md. 20820. The telephone numbers are: (800) 251-5139, or (301) 251-5139 for residents of Maryland and metropolitan Washington.

Missing Children, 1988 Estimates

Type	Number
Family abductions	
Broad scope	354,100
Policy focal	163,200
Non-family abductions	
Legal-definition abduction	3,200-4,600
Stereotypical kidnapping	200-300
Runaways	
Broad scope	450,700
Policy focal	133,500
Thrownaways	
Broad scope	127,100
Policy focal	59,200
Lost, injured, other	
Broad scope	438,200
Policy focal	139,100

Definitions
Broad scope: The problem as defined by affected families.
Policy focal: The problem as defined by police or other social agencies.
Legal-definition abductions: Includes short-term, coercive movement entailed in many rapes and assaults.
Stereotypical kidnappings: Long-term, long-distance, or fatal episodes.

Source: U.S. Justice Department

Study Links Drug Experimentation, Psychological Health

By Ellen Flax

Teenagers who have experimented with marijuana are more likely to be psychologically healthy than teenagers who either abuse the drug or who have never tried it, a new study suggests.

The study, which appears in this month's issue of the *American Psychologist*, suggests that frequent drug use is an outgrowth of long-term psychological problems that are evident before a child ever uses drugs.

It also concludes that current drug-education programs, which teach children how to "say no" to drugs, are "misguided" because they do not deal with the underlying causes of drug abuse.

The study, conducted by two psychologists at the University of California at Berkeley, followed 101 teenagers from the Bay Area from age 3 to 18.

At age 18, the youths were divided into three groups: the abstainers, who had never tried marijuana or any other drug; the experimenters, who had used marijuana a few times or once a month; and frequent users, who had used the drug at least once a week and had tried at least one drug other than marijuana.

According to the study, while 68 percent of the teenagers had tried the drug, only 20 percent were frequent users, and nearly 30 percent had never tried the drug. Sixteen percent of the children did not fall into any of the three categories.

Compared with the experimenters, the researchers found, the abusers were typically troubled, alienated, emotionally withdrawn, uncontrolled, and distressed. Such problems were evident when abusers were as young as 7 years old, they said.

> 'Just say no' education programs are 'misguided,' study finds.

"The data clearly indicate, then, that the relative maladjustment of the frequent users precedes the initiation of drug use," the study states.

'Deviant' Abstainers

In contrast, teenagers who abstained from drug use were found typically to be overcontrolled, tense, emotionally-constricted, and lacking in social skills, when compared with the experimenters. Such tendencies were also evident during their early childhood, the researchers said.

Both the abusers and the abstainers had mothers who were seen as being relatively cold and unresponsive, according to the study.

"When the psychological findings are considered as a set, it is difficult to escape the inference that experimenters are the psychologically healthiest subjects, healthier than either abstainers or frequent users," the study says.

The researchers, who stressed that they did not condone drug use, said they used the experimenters as their point of reference in the study because "some experimentation with marijuana cannot be considered deviant behavior for high-school seniors in this culture at this time."

"In a statistical sense," they said, "it is not trying marijuana that has become deviant."

Current drug-education efforts are "flawed," according to the report, because they focus on resisting peer pressure and not on the "psychological triad of alienation, impulsivity, and distress."

It suggests that more effective programs would concentrate less on "drug education" and more on improving parenting skills, enhancing self-esteem, and fostering better interpersonal relationships.

The U.S. Education Department challenged some of the study's major conclusions.

"We don't believe that you need to experiment with drugs to grow up in America," said Dick W. Hays, director of the department's drug-abuse-prevention oversight staff. "That shouldn't be part of your process."

Lack of Funds Halts Measles-Vaccination Program

By Ann Bradley

The federal government has run out of money to combat the current epidemic of measles, which has killed dozens of unvaccinated preschool-age children this year, according to federal officials.

Since January, 41 people have died of measles, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control, in one of the worst outbreaks of the disease in years. Most of the reported deaths were of unvaccinated children under age 5 who lived in urban areas.

However, the C.D.C., which funnels money to state and local health departments to pay for vaccinations, has allocated all of the $10 million budgeted this fiscal year for controlling the measles outbreak.

States and localities now must "identify their own resources" to immunize children, said Jeannie Laprebendere, a public-affairs specialist with the C.D.C.

In addition, President Bush's budget request for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 does not include more money specifically to combat the outbreak.

James Brown, a spokesman for the Public Health Service, said the C.D.C. requested more money for vaccinations to help fight the epidemic, but that the request did not make it into the President's final budget.

Last December, the C.D.C. recommended that children entering school receive a second dose of measles vaccine, which is first administered at age 15 months. *(See Education Week, Jan. 10, 1990.)*

At that time, Mr. Brown added, "the President's budget was set and ready to go."

Valerie Morelli, associate director of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, said many states face the same fiscal constraints as the federal government.

"Pushing this off on the states is not going to solve the problem," she said. States may be forced to be selective about which age groups of children are vaccinated first and which receive second doses, she added.

The Senate has passed a supplemental appropriations bill for this year that contains $12 million for emergency vaccine supplies and $23- million for second vaccinations, Ms. Morelli noted. That bill is now before a conference committee.

Cases On The Rise

So far this year, 51 percent more measles cases have been reported to the C.D.C. than during the same period last year. In 1989, 44 people died of measles—the largest number of measles deaths reported since 1972.

Outbreaks have been identified in 82 locations in 25 states. Twelve counties in California, and 61 counties in Texas, have reported outbreaks.

The worst outbreaks have occurred in Los Angeles; Fresno, Calif.; Dallas; and Chicago, according to the C.D.C.

Los Angeles has reported 3,500 cases since the epidemic began in October 1987, predominantly among unvaccinated black and Hispanic preschool-age children living in the central city, the C.D.C. reported.

The many "special clinics" held in the city in the past two years to reach high-risk populations have had no noticeable effect, the C.D.C. reported.

In Fresno, at least eight children of Hmong refugees have died of measles since December 1989.

The epidemic also has struck secondary-school students, college students, Amish communities in the Midwest, migrant workers, and Mexican immigrants, the C.D.C. reported.

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Television Decoder Touted as Reading-Instruction Aid

Bill Seeks To Extend Reach of Closed Captioning

By Debra Viadero

At least once a week, Milton Goldman uses a television and a closed-caption decoder to give his students at Alexander Hamilton High School a powerful reading lesson.

The Los Angeles reading teacher shows the students, all of whom have poor reading skills, a videotaped episode of "The Cosby Show" or another popular television comedy. Two or three minutes into the program, he turns off the sound, forcing the students to read the captions on the screen in order to follow the story.

"What I have found," said Mr. Goldman, "is that the students will watch the screen with more intensity than they ever will when they're reading a book."

Strategies like Mr. Goldman's are lending new weight this year to the national effort to give all television viewers the capability to watch closed-captioned programming in their own homes. Advocates say the closed-caption decoders, once seen primarily as a device for assisting deaf and hearing-impaired individuals, can also be a powerful educational tool for millions of others—including illiterate adults, young children who are learning to read, non-English-speaking immigrants, and remedial readers like the teenagers in Mr. Goldman's class.

The current focus for much of this national effort is S 1974, a bill that would require all new television sets with screens 13 inches or larger to have built-in decoder circuitry for displaying closed captions. Having languished for much of 1989, the measure is gaining momentum this year—in part, advocates say, due to

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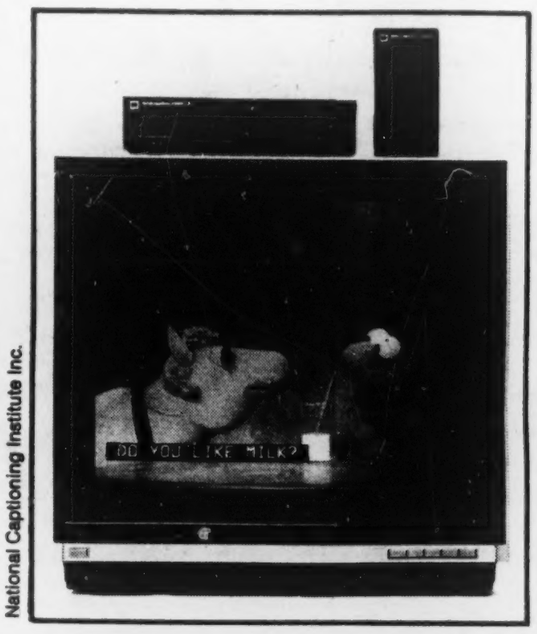

National Captioning Institute Inc.

Closed-caption decoders have primarily been seen as a device for assisting deaf and hearing-impaired individuals.

'Open Market' of Schools Needed, New Book Argues

Authors Say Politics Is at Heart of Problem

By Lynn Olson

WASHINGTON—Politics is ruining America's public schools. At least, that is the conclusion of two political scientists in a book scheduled to be released here this week.

They advocate that states govern public schools more like private ones by creating a new system based on choice in which private schools would become eligible to compete for students.

According to John E. Chubb, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, and Terry M. Moe, a professor of political science at Stanford University, the political institutions that govern public education—namely, school boards, superintendents, and district offices—function naturally to increase bureaucracy, undermine school autonomy, and suppress student achievement.

Excerpts on pages 12-15

Until states replace these institutions with an entirely new system of governance—one in which schools compete for students in the open market—school reform is destined to fail, the authors contend.

"What we're trying to point out is that bureaucracy is not everywhere by accident," said Mr. Chubb in an interview. "Bureaucracy, and especially the almost byzantine and incredibly burdensome form of bureaucracy that we have in the big-city systems, is a product of politics. It's a product of the politics that you get when you set up a system where you want to have direct democratic control of the schools."

Under the authors' choice proposal, states would set minimal criteria for defining what constitutes a "public school."

Any group or organization that applied to the state and met those criteria—including

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E.D. Trying To Curb Judges' Authority in Appeals, Critics Say

By Julie A. Miller

WASHINGTON—Education Department officials are trying to limit the authority of the administrative law judges who hear appeals from state education agencies and school districts accused of using federal funds improperly, critics charge.

Though Administration officials declined to comment on the charge, arguments made by lawyers for the Education and Justice departments in legal proceedings appear to bolster the contention.

The Administration won a victory last week, when a federal district judge here dismissed a suit challenging the Education Department's assertion of authority over the administrative judges.

The judges were appointed last year, when the department began using a new appeals system created by the Congress in response to complaints that the old Education Appeal Board was a "rubber stamp" for the department's audit decisions.

The 1988 law, which was vigorously opposed by the department, also restricted the agency's ability to recover allegedly mis-

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In Dade County, Company Gears Up To Help District Run a Public School

By Ann Bradley

MIAMI BEACH, FLA.—Students who enter the new South Pointe Elementary School here in the fall of 1991 will not see a teacher standing before neat rows of desks, ready to begin the day's lesson with stacks of freshly printed workbooks.

Instead, they will find carpeted classrooms with low tables, computer terminals, shelves of children's literature, and two teachers ready to help them begin an individualized plan of instruction.

They will be taught "the Tesseract way," following a method devised by Education Alternatives Inc., a private, for-profit company based in Minneapolis.

The Dade County, Fla., school board on June 27 is expected to approve a five-year contract that will allow the Minnesota firm to develop the educational program for the soon-to-be-built public school—and to train its principal and teachers.

The partnership will mark the first time that a public school system has entered into such an agreement with a private business.

John T. Golle, Education Alternatives' chairman and chief executive officer, called the arrangement a departure from the business community's tradition of offering educators advice, but not actively participating in finding better solutions.

"There are a lot of business people who are on the shore, shouting instructions to the crew," he said. "We are in the boat—we are the crew."

The foundation for the unusual relationship was laid last year, when the Dade County Public Schools announced its Sat-

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Interest in College Talent-Search Programs For Young Students Is Continuing To Grow

By Mark Walsh

This summer, thousands of bright, young students will flock to college campuses and crack the books.

At Johns Hopkins University and several satellite campuses, they will study ancient Greek, genetics, or "Fast-Paced Physics with Calculus."

At Duke University, they are signing up for Russian I, number theory, or "The Roman World."

And at the University of Denver, the offerings include introduction to robotics, neuropsychology, and fractal computer graphics.

While such classes would be challenging even to many college students, most of those enrolled will be middle-school students, ages 12 to 14, who have entered academic "talent searches"—programs that identify young students who could benefit from advanced studies.

Pioneered by Johns Hopkins some two decades ago, regional talent-search programs for pre-high-school students are now found at universities throughout the country. Although the programs are not officially linked, similar kinds of offerings are available at Duke, Denver, Arizona State University, and Northwestern University.

Many colleges offer summer programs for high-school students, and young people of various ages enroll in other academic activities during the summer break, from computer camps to a "National LawCamp" set to open in Miami Shores, Fla., in July.

But the talent-search programs are per-

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Participants in Johns Hopkins's program, which pioneered the idea of regional talent-search programs for young students.

Also in the news

5 **Game-Based Learning Kits**
Teachers will lead the multi-million-dollar marketing effort for a California firm's product.

23 **Reshuffling at N.S.F.**
A longtime leader in the agency's education efforts is out in a reorganization plan.